

around every corner, he volunteered, assessed, and was selected to serve in the 75th Ranger Regiment, 5th Special Forces Group, and the Southern European Task Force. After several years and multiple overseas deployments, Major Likins felt a greater calling of leadership and pursued a commission in the U.S. Army.

Major Likins was commissioned as an infantry officer on October 11th, 2001, through Officer Candidate School. As an officer, he served in several leadership positions in light infantry and airborne units across the country and Europe. At the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom, serving as a Company Executive Officer in the 173rd Airborne, Major Likins participated in a daring brigade-level parachute assault into Iraq. He then deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and served as an operations officer within the 2–503rd Infantry (Airborne).

Major Likins then joined the 10th Mountain Division and commanded two different infantry companies. On his second command, Major Likins deployed his company to an austere company outpost in Iraq where he partnered and trained an Iraqi Army battalion. Major Likins was then selected as an Army Congressional Fellow where he served as an integral member of my staff. Finally, he served as the legislative liaison managing the Soldier Systems portfolio, ensuring our troops going into combat are supplied with the best equipment available.

Major Likins has truly lived at the tip of the spear throughout his career. From Desert Storm to Haiti, Bosnia to Kosovo, and to Iraq to Afghanistan, he has deployed to almost every place around the globe where the Army has been sent into harm's way. He has also earned two Masters Degrees during his service and has exemplified the warrior-scholar who our nation needs leading our men and women into combat.

Throughout his 25 years of service to the nation, Major Likins has earned numerous awards and decorations to include: Combat Infantryman's Badge, Expert Infantryman's Badge, Special Forces and Ranger Tabs, Master Parachutists Wings with combat jump device, Air Assault Badge, the Meritorious Service Medal, and the Legion of Merit.

I am proud to share in the celebration of Major Likins' military career. I would also like to congratulate his wife, Bettina, and his two children, Patrick and Kirsten, whose love and support aided and strengthened Major Likins as he has served our great nation. I wish him all the best in his retirement.

HONORING DR. MICHAEL
SEVERINO

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Michael Severino, M.D., an outstanding physician from Illinois. Recently, AbbVie, a cutting-edge pharmaceutical company with a large Illinois presence, named Dr. Severino Executive Vice President of Research and Development (R&D) and Chief Scientific Officer. AbbVie's selection of Dr. Severino to lead corporate innovation and

product development reflects a company-wide commitment to developing new therapies and continuing to push the bio-tech industry to new frontiers.

Dr. Severino's responsibilities will include leading AbbVie's R&D, Medical Affairs and Regulatory Affairs organizations, bringing his years of experience to bear on guiding the company's 7,000 worldwide employees engaged in scientific discovery. Collectively, they will be working to develop a steady stream of new medicines for patients.

Dr. Severino has most recently served as Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer at AbbVie. He is a leader in clinical development strategy across therapeutic areas including immunology, neuroscience, oncology and cardiovascular disease. Over ten years at AbbVie, Dr. Severino has consistently taken on positions of increasing responsibility, particularly in the area of R&D.

AbbVie's Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Michael Gonzalez, praised Dr. Severino stating, "We are fortunate to have a leader of his caliber to steer our efforts to develop treatments for today's toughest health challenges. He will be instrumental in moving our pipeline and strategy forward."

Mr. Speaker, and my distinguished colleagues in the House, please join me in congratulating Dr. Severino on his new position and wishing him many future successes as he works to understand and treat a wide array of ailments to help others live happier, healthier lives.

REMEMBERING TONY HACKBARTH

HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Tony Hackbarth. Tony, who passed away on May 21, 2014, was a larger than life figure in the Hi-Desert's city of Barstow.

Better known as Mr. Del Taco, Tony and his brother Ed opened the first Del Taco on First Street in Barstow in 1966. By 1981, Del Taco had 250 locations across the Golden State feeding thousands of customers every day. After selling the franchise in 1979, Tony remained the owner and operator of the three Barstow restaurants located on First Street, Mountain View, and Lenwood Road. He worked at the First Street location up until his death.

Everyone in the Barstow community knew Tony and could find him waving out of the drive through window of the First Street Del Taco location. A true man of the people, and a champion of the community it is with a heavy heart that I stand here today.

Tony served four years in the U.S. Air Force and was discharged in 1958. In 2001, he was awarded the "Man of Continuous Service" by the Barstow Chamber of Commerce and he and his wife were awarded the "Parents of the Year" award in 1990.

Tony is survived by his wife of 56 years, Barbara and their four children, Julie, Mark, Aaron, and Brae. I join with the City of Barstow and everyone who had the pleasure of knowing Tony in remembering him, and praying for his family.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my opposition to H.R. 4031, the Department of Veterans Affairs Management Accountability Act of 2014.

I represent the VA West Los Angeles Medical Center, which is the largest VA medical facility in the Nation. I am outraged by the recent allegations of serious misconduct and mismanagement at VA hospitals. I understand the urgency my colleagues feel to act, but this legislation will not solve the problems plaguing the Department of Veterans Affairs because it doesn't address the systemic deficiencies that are preventing our veterans from getting the care they so deserve.

H.R. 4031 has been brought to the floor without a committee hearing or markup. It gives the Secretary of the VA the authority to fire Senior Executive Service (SES) employees at will. The Secretary already has the authority to fire SES employees for cause. The legislation is not only unnecessary; it is harmful because it would allow political appointees to fire nonpolitical senior federal executives for any reason. It would set a bad precedent and jeopardize the Department's ability to recruit the most talented individuals to the VA.

I want to work with my colleagues to draft sensible legislation that will actually solve the problems at the VA with a new metric for accountability and executive performance.

INTRODUCING THE INVESTING TO MODERNIZE THE PRODUCTION OF AMERICAN CLEAN ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY ACT OF 2014

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Investing to Modernize the Production of American Clean Energy and Technology Act of 2014, a bill that will continue this Nation's march towards sustainable power solutions.

This bill will continue a number of valuable tax provisions used by clean energy companies to level the playing field so that clean energy can compete with its more established traditional-energy counterparts. This is done by extending tax provisions for onshore and offshore wind and other renewable energy production.

The bill also provides incentives for clean energy manufacturing, energy efficient appliances and homes, electric vehicles, and a new era of natural gas-powered vehicles.

At the same time, this bill prevents major oil companies from continuing to benefit from corporate giveaways tucked into the tax code at a time when their industry is making record profits.

This bill is a statement of principles and vision as much as it is about tax policy. America